



UNITED NATIONS  
NEPAL



**EMPOWERED WOMEN**

**PROSPEROUS NEPAL**

# Gender Equality, Women Empowerment: Context in Nepal

## POLITICAL: Devolution of Power

- Ongoing Federalization
- 15th Development Plan
- National Gender Equality Policy (2021) commitment to good governance, social justice, gender equality and women's empowerment
- Significant shift with federalism, 100+ Laws drafted /amended
- Women representation from 2022 election (36.4% at provincial and 33.8% at federal level). Decrease in Deputy Mayor/Vice chair position (93% in 2017 to 75% in 2022)
- CEDAW Committee concluding observation 2018, and implementation status report by National Women Commission

## SOCIAL: Diversity & Inclusion

- Harmful traditional practices:
- 33% women and 7% of men are married before age of 18
  - 1 in 4 of married women have experienced spousal physical, sexual, or emotional violence
  - 64% victims of sexual violence reported to police were children below 18 years and 83% of perpetrators were acquaintances (Nepal Police: July 2020 to June 2021)

## ECONOMIC: Growth & Hazards

- Strong provisions on women's economic empowerment in the constitution, National employment policy (2015), Labour Act (2017)
- The rate of women's labour force participation is less than half of that of men (26.3% and 53.8% respectively).
- Average monthly earning for women is only two thirds that of men. Women mostly work in informal settings.
- Multi-hazard prone: Ranked 4<sup>th</sup> most vulnerable to climate change, 11<sup>th</sup> to earthquake, 30<sup>th</sup> to floods. Top 3<sup>rd</sup> country in Asia for disaster-induced displacement of persons.
- Green, resilient and inclusive development (GRID) approach for sustainable recovery, growth and jobs post COVID-19
- Nepal's graduation from a Least Developed Country





## Objective

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To advance gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in Nepal, to realize the national vision of a prosperous and developed Nepal (Vision 2030).

# Alignment with national priorities

- **Constitution of Nepal 2015**
- **15<sup>th</sup> Periodic Plan**
- **National Gender Equality Policy 2021**

## Other sectoral legislations, policies and guidelines:

- ❖ Labour Act (2017) / Labour Administration Action Plan / National Formalization Action Plan
- ❖ The Act relating to Children 2075 (2018)
- ❖ Contribution-based Social Security Act
- ❖ National Strategy and Plan of Action on Gender Empowerment and Ending Gender-Based Violence (2012-2017) & Action Plan 2019-2020
- ❖ National Employment Policy (2015)
- ❖ Gender-responsive budget guidelines including recently adopted model guideline for provincial and local government 2021 developed by Ministry of Finance



Contributes to **SDG 5** Gender Equality, **SDG 8** Decent Work and Economic Growth, **SDG 10** Reduced Inequalities, and **SDG 16** Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, among others

# Outcome 1

**Men and boys, families & communities demonstrate more gender-equitable behaviour, support for positive social & gender norms that promote gender equality and women's empowerment, and women and girls have increased agency and voice**



## **Areas of Focus:**

### **Social Norm Change and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention**

- Engage men and boys to model gender positive behavior in line with men engagement strategy
- Support community/institution i.e. schools, women & girls' networks to challenge/transform harmful social norms
- Empower women/ girls, parents, caregivers, community using gender transformative approaches to speak up against gender discrimination, address harmful social norms & model positive behaviors
- Promote equitable gender norms including around unpaid household and care work within families
- Promote social care infrastructure to address women's unpaid care work
- Expand on existing GBV champions program to enable promising adolescents and youth to advocate gender equality and human rights, particularly sexual and reproductive health rights in their communities
- Strengthen data systems and evidence generation on GBV - National GBV Prevalence Survey

### **Outcome 1 contributes to GE Policy Strategy 2:**

End GBV by changing social norm through prevention, mitigation and regulatory efforts  
Social norms and harmful practices prioritized in GE policy under Strategy 2: Chhaupadi, Child Marriage, Polygamy, Dowry, Witchcraft

# Outcome 2

**Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, fully enjoy and exercise their equal economic, labor and social rights.**

## **Areas of Focus:**

### **Women's Economic Empowerment (agriculture and forestry value chains)**

- Promote decent work through strengthening labor administration systems
- Increase women's participation in labor force and improve working conditions
- Promotion of social dialogue in all tiers of governance, aimed at promoting decent work, gender equality and human rights in line with the principles of leaving no one behind
- Enhance tripartite dialogue structures and capacity of market-based organizations (trade unions, chambers of commerce, cooperatives, producer groups)
- Strengthen gender sensitive social protection measures, including social assistance and contributory schemes
- Promote income generation opportunities
- Support women-led businesses
- Promote sustainable value chains linked to green growth and formalization
- Promote access to gender and age sensitive essential services including through government supported One-Stop Crisis Management Centers (OCMCs), safe houses and shelter homes for GBV survivors

### **Outcome 2 contributes to:**

**GE Policy Strategy 2:** To end GBV through preventive, responsive and regulatory efforts.

**GE Policy Strategy 4:** To increase women participation in labour market by changing gender-based labour division and count women's contribution in economy.

**GE Policy Strategy 5:** Advance women's economic empowerment through integrated programme on self-employment, employment and entrepreneurship.

**GE Policy Strategy 6:** Make women self-dependent through economic empowerment, equal access and control over resources/tools and access to decision making.



# Outcome 3

**Institutions deliver gender equality outcomes in all spheres, in line with international and national normative frameworks.**

## **Areas of Focus: Women's leadership and representation**

- Support Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens to monitor implementation of gender equality policy
- Support national human rights institutions including National Women's Commission on implementation of international and national normative commitments
- Strengthen gender mainstreaming in select sectors at all levels of government
- Support gender-responsive budget (GRB) implementation at provincial and local level government in line with model GRB guideline developed by Ministry of Finance
- Promote women's leadership and access to decision making (elected women representatives) to strengthen gender responsive governance
- Promote civic engagement especially of women and youth at all levels of government
- Promote the ratification and implementation of ILO Conventions with support of Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security
- Support National Child Rights Council to institutionalize Child Protection Information System and support Nepal Police in data collection and analysis



### **Outcome 3 contributes to:**

**GE Policy Strategy 1:** Make existing and new policies gender responsive and continue provisions on positive discrimination and its implementation for gender equality

**GE Policy Strategy 3:** Promote gender responsive governance in all three tiers of governance through legal provisions, institutional reforms and capacity development

# Project timeline and budget

**Project timeline: 2023 - 2026**

**Project budget:**

USD 19.5 million

(EU contribution-USD 15.5 million

UN Contribution- USD 4 million)

## **FEDERAL LEVEL:**

Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health and Population, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration; Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliament, National Human Rights Commission, National Planning Commission, National Women's Commission, Central Bureau of Statistics, etc.

## **Partnerships**

### **PROVINCIAL LEVEL:**

Ministry of Social Development, Provincial Planning Commission and line ministries/ departments

### **LOCAL LEVEL:**

Collaboration and joint implementation with local governments.



# Geographical strategy

The project will be implemented in **Karnali, Madhesh and Sudurpaschim Provinces**, with cross-cutting activities in partnership with federal, provincial and local governments.

- **6-10 palikas** (all project activities)
- **20-30 palikas** (select project activities)
- A detailed qualifying criteria will be developed to identify the project palikas in consultation with federal, provincial and local level government and other relevant stakeholders.

## The UN delivering as one

- **Technical specialized knowledge**
- **Bring global knowledge/good practices**
- **Normative facilitation role**
- **Support members state to implement agenda 2030 (in line with LNOB principle)**
- **Four UN agencies with specialized expertise coming together to design and implement a holistic and integrated programme on gender equality**

# Governance mechanism



**Project Steering Committee is proposed including representatives EU, UN and concerned Government Ministries (considering multi-sectoral approach and gender flagship)**

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**Technical Committee composed of representatives from EU, UN, relevant government ministries and implementing partners to provide technical advice and expertise to the Project steering committee.**

## Scope:

- Review periodic progress report including the inception phase report before submitting to the Steering committee and donors.
  - oversee overall project implementation and provide technical guidance to JCU
  - support the preparation for finalizing agenda for Steering Committee meeting and propose recommendations for the SC as required.
  - Joint filed visit/monitoring
  - Review and approve ToRs of the external monitoring and evaluation
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**Joint Project Coordination Unit (Secretariat hosted by UNICEF)**

## Scope

- Overall project implementation and coordination, communication and visibility, monitoring reporting and evaluation,
- Serve as project governance secretariat to technical Committee and Steering Committee
- Ensure Timely programme and financial reports are, compiled, get approved and submitted
- Work on updating project work plan, log frame and recommend any changes needed.



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